

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2015-09-21 23:44:36
Observer's Name	Anthony Uhrich
E-mail	aeuhrich@gmail.com
Phone	562-842-5032
Observer's Address	Street Address: 2150 Alexander Drive City: Eagleville State / Province: Pennsylvania Postal / Zip Code: 19403 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Kim Gruener
Species (Common Name)	Mississippi Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Ictinia mississippiensis
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	09-21-2015 12:50 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25125309
County	Montgomery
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Eagleville - West Norriton
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	House - above address^
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.149147, -75.370805
Habitat	In flight over residential neighborhood - suburbs
Distance to bird	Bird was soaring high, but visible to naked eye
Viewing conditions	partly to mostly cloudy, skies were clearing up before getting cloudy again later in the day
Optical equipment used	Zeiss Terra ED 10x42, Bushnell Legend HD 10x42, Canon Rebel T3i w/ 70-300mm lens
Description	Bird was high and not in the greatest lighting. The only colors that could be seen were an overall grayish appearance with a bit of darker color showing on the tail. Slender with narrow, pointed wings. Base of tail was narrow and the end was squared off.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was migrating SW and was moving slow enough that I had time to run inside, adjust camera exposure and snap a few pictures. It was soaring, but did flap its wings twice. It was a delicate wingbeat that seemed effortless, not strong like a PEFA.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Closest similar species would be Peregrine Falcon. The bird was more slender than a PEFA, with a thinner base of the tail and squared end of tail vs the tapered or curved end of tail of a PEFA (depending on how the tail was being held) The two times it flapped its wings said a lot too, nothing like a Peregrine, not strong powerful beats. The wing beats looked delicate and with little effort.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

If the bird were a Peregrine Falcon, I believe that based on their speed and the assisting winds of the day, that by the time I returned outside with the camera, the bird would have been long gone.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes, we knew we had something other than a Peregrine the second we had binoculars on it and have had several more experienced birders agree on the ID from the photo alone.

During

N/A

After

The Sibley Guide to Birds, The Crossley ID Guide (Raptors), Hawks From Every Angle by Jerry Liguori, Hawks At A Distance by Jerry Liguori

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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